FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 JULY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes struck military targets 23 July in Sanandaj, Iran, according to an Armed Forces communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio. In other activity the same day, Iraqi aircraft hit a large maritime target and an Iranian oil refinery, the communique announced. For its part, Iran charged that the Sanandaj raid, which killed 23 civilians, was directed against civilian targets, according to a Joint Staff communique cited by IRNA. Retaliating for the attack, Iranian artillery shelled economic and industrial installations in Al-Harithah, Iraq, Tehran radio reported.

Israel

The talks with Morocco's King Hassan II exceeded Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' fondest expectations, Jerusalem radio's English service reported, adding that Peres will discuss the visit with U.S. Vice President George Bush, who arrives in Israel next week.

Lebanon

A Hizballah spokesman met with Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The spokesman said Hizballah is prepared to do everything possible to guarantee the success of the security plan in the suburbs, the radio continued. Meanwhile, 1,500 Syrian paratroopers dressed in Lebanese Army uniforms were said to have arrived, the Voice of Lebanon later reported, adding that Kan'an was intensifying his contacts with Lebanese Army officers aimed at forming the security force which will enter the southern suburb.

Elsewhere, former President Camille Sham'un expressed the belief that King Hassan II is brave and sincere in his efforts for peace, according to Voice of Lebanon. Sham'un added that the Hassan-Peres meeting does not justify a boycott of Morocco, according to the radio.

Syria

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon alleged that Syrian authorities have held a Muslim Brotherhood group responsible for a 9 July blast in Damascus that killed at least seven people. A number of Syrian officers were arrested on charges of collaborating with the Brotherhood, the radio continued.

Saudi Arabia-Yemen

PDRY Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas concluded his talks with King Fahd, SPA announced. Al-'Attas said the greater part of the two leaders' talks was devoted to developments in the Arab world, in particular the Palestinian cause and the Iran-Iraq war, the agency added.

OPEC

The Kuwaiti oil minister foresees an "extremely difficult" OPEC session, scheduled to start 28 July in Geneva, KUNA reported. The minister blamed the problem on the rejection of production quotas by some member-countries, the agency continued.

Tunisia

President Habib Bourguiba dismissed former Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali from the Destourian Socialist Party Political Bureau, and dismissed Mzali's wife, the former family and women's advancement minister, from the party Central Committee, Tunis radio announced.

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Foreign Ministry Protests French Aid for Mujahidin

LD241800 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the French Embassy in Kabul was summoned at noon today to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a protest note was handed to him by the official in charge of the relevant section about the recent French Government's assistance to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

This note refers to the recent assistance of the French Government, including a donation of FR 200 million, to the so-called international and nongovernmental organizations carrying out activities against the DRA, and the allocation of $300,000 to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries, and points to the provocative statement by Claude Malhuret, French secretary of state to the prime minister in charge of human rights, and to the recent undeniable facts which clearly show that official French authorities, who are openly trampling on human rights, contrary to the humanitarian ethic and to accepted international norms, and continuing their interference in the internal affairs of the DRA, spare no efforts to intensify the undeclared war.

In expressing the profound disapproval of the DRA Government and people for these actions by the French Government, a strong protest has been lodged and a warning given about the unpleasant consequences of such actions on relations between the two countries.

Najibullah Comments on Domestic Issues, Iranian Ties

LD250628 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMt 25 Jul 86

[Text] Kabul, July 24, *Bakhtar* — Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, visited Herat City, west of the country, today. He performed prayers with a great number of Herati people in the Congregational Mosque of Herat. He also visited different parts of Herat textile factory and talked with the workers about their problems and proposals.

Addressing the working people of Herat in a grand gathering, general secretary of the PDPA CC said that the ensurance of peace and security constitutes the most important task of the people of Afghanistan. To achieve this end, the party and state of the DRA declared national reconciliation. Najibullah called upon the elders of Herat Province to exert their utmost cooperation for the realisation of such a national reconciliation.

The working people of Afghanistan want to [words indistinct] friendly relations with the people of the world specially with those of Iran. There existed friendly, fraternal and good-neighborly relations between the people of Afghanistan [words indistinct] in the course of history. Presently, the party and state of the DRA are willing that the people of Afghanistan should have friendly relations [words indistinct] all the people of the world, particularly with the brotherly people of Iran.

Based on the peaceful policy and mutual cooperation and without resorting to force, the DRA wants to solve all its problems with its neighbouring countries. The pursuance of such a peaceful policy is in the interest of the people of Afghanistan and Iran, general secretary of the PDPA CC emphasized. We are confident that the peoples of the both countries do not want war but it is imperialism and reaction who are intending to impose war on the people of the both countries.

He also gifted a check of one hundred thousand afghanis to assist the clergymen of Herat.

BAKHTAR Views Implications of U.S.-Pakistani Talks

LD250652 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Kabul, July 24, *Bakhtar* — A political observer of *Bakhtar* writes: Talks were held between Ronald Reagan, the U.S. President, and Mohammed Khan Junejo, Pakistani prime minister, on [words indistinct] bilateral extensive military cooperation. The main agenda of the talks were Islamabad's persistent requests for the extension of economic and military assistance and cooperation for the modernisation of the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

White House agreed to Islamabad's proposals provided Washington's new aid to Islamabad should be tied with the consolidation of the American military presence in Pakistan and the ever-greater activity of Islamabad in the imperialist undeclared war against the DRA. As far as the results of the talks show, Islamabad has completely accepted these conditions.

The U.S. Department of State in its statement published in the press points out that Washington, in its giving economic and military aid to Pakistan, treat it as a country which should give to the United States the right of establishing military bases in its territory.

It can be clearly understood from Ronald Reagan's pronouncements that as long as the territory of Pakistan remains as a springboard of the imperialist undeclared war against the DRA, Islamabad can depend on U.S. support.

Islamabad regime does not conceal its happiness about this deal. It plans to spend the new credits which would amount to over four billion dollars for the development of the military and the reequipping of the Armed Forces. Islamabad regime intends to purchase from the United States the most modern offensive weapons such as Harpoon, Stinger rockets and war and electronic intelligentsia's equipments. Pakistan completes its Air Forces with F-16 war weapons and speeds up the setting up of its nuclear weapons. These facts and figures make the bellicose policy of Islamabad regime clear which causes the concern of the countries of the region. The results of the talks in Washington testify to the fact that Pakistan and the United States are not interested in the reduction of tension in Asia.

Islamabad and Washington new military deal which has taken place against the will of Pakistani people certainly ever further converts the territory of Pakistan to the bellicose strategic springboard of Washington. This would bring about dangerous consequences for Pakistan the responsibility of which would rest with Pakistani rulers.

Gandhi, Canadian Emissary Discuss Commonwealth

BK231608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] The Canadian prime minister has sent a special envoy, Mr Bernard Wood, for talks with Indian leaders on the coming mini-summit of Commonwealth leaders. Mr Wood met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the external affairs minister in New Delhi today. He also had meetings with the two ministers of state for external affairs.

Shiv Shankar Explains Position on Commonwealth Meet

BK250905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P. Shiv Shankar, asserted in the Lok Sabha today that India will continue its efforts at the forthcoming mini Commonwelth summit in London toward the sternest action against South Africa.

Replying to supplementaries, he said India will persuade Britain to impose economic sanctions against the racist regime. If persuasion is not effective, Mr Shiv Shankar added, we will see what emerges out of the discussion. The strategy India would adopt in the coming summit will depend upon the responses of other participating countries.

Replying to another question, the minister said that 63 Indian prisoners were repatriated from Pakistan in February this year. He said: Regarding the release of the rest of the prisoners, the response from Pakistan Government is awaited.

Gandhi Interviewed on Dissident Sikhs, Pakistan

BK250400 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] The prime minister has expressed the hope that both Punjab and Haryana will abide by the verdict of the Eradi commission in solving the issue of sharing the river waters. In an interview with a Hindi daily, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the Center is not averse to holding negotiations with dissident Akali leaders provided they discontinue their support to the terrorists.

Referring to Pakistan's role in the situation in Punjab, Mr Gandhi said he had personally taken up the issue at different levels.

Parliament Debates Steps To Curb Communal Violence

BK231620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] The Lok Sabha was told today that the government has the political will and it will exercise it to put down communal violence. The minister of state, Mr P. Chidambaram, who also looks after internal security, pointed out that this was demonstrated during the recent disturbances in Ahmadabad when the situation was brought under control within 24 hours. He was intervening in the resumed special discussion on the subject.

Mr Chidambaram made it clear tha the district magistrates and superintendents of police will be held responsible for communal disturbances in their jurisdictions though they are under the control of the state governments.

Referring to the special courts to deal with cases relating to communal violence, Mr Chidambaram said the experience so far has not been a happy one. Only 12 states and 2 union territories have set up special courts. In other states regular courts are dealing with these cases. He said we will make a beginning at Ahmadabad where those responsible for disturbances will be punished severely.

The minister said 88 districts have been identified as hypersensitive and 98 districts as sensitive to communal disturbances. Mr Chidambaram emphasized the need for state governments to strictly enforce central guidelines to deal with communal troubles. He also appealed to newspaper editors not to publish unbalanced and provocative reports. Condemning any kind of fundamentalism, Mr Chidambaram urged secular forces to assert themselves and isolate the communal elements which are only a few.

Participating in the discussion, the members urged the government to ban communal bodies which they alleged are primarily responsible for fomenting trouble in different parts of the country. They also wanted the government to punish severely the perpetrators of communal violence. A member suggested that necessary arrangements should be made to keep unaffected cities free from the backlash. Sensitive areas should be identified and effective arrangements should be made to keep them trouble free. There were demands for reorientation of the police force to make it more effective. A ruling party member appealed to the house to adopt a constructive approach in solving the communal problem. Another member said that the people's movement should be built up to ensure communal harmony. Members also demanded action against smugglers and bootleggers who are behind the communal trouble.

An opposition member suggested that voluntary organizations, intellectuals, and the media people should be involved in maintaining communal harmony. A ban on all communal organizations with political motives was also demanded. Another opposition member suggested imposition of punitive fine on communities for damages during disturbances. There was also a suggestion for setting up a parliamentary committee on permanent basis to monitor the situation.

Home Minister on Gurkhas, Pakistan

BK240905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] The Center will not like to transgress into the jurisdiction of the West Bengal government in dealing with the law and order situation as it is a state subject. The prime minister said this in the Rajya Sabha today when a question was asked on the Gurkha homeland movement in Darjeeling area.

Answering the question, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, said that the Center is in touch with the state government with whose

cooperation it will not spare any movement which believes in bringing about political changes through violence. He told the House that the West Bengal government had asked for the assistance of eight companies of paramilitary forces which has been provided to them. In reply to a supplementary, he said the government is aware of reports that exservicemen are being harassed and coerced. The state government has been asked to take proper steps to prevent this.

In a written reply, the home minister also informed the House that some extremists who have been apprehended in Punjab recently have disclosed that they were kept in various Pakistani jails and guest houses where they received training in the use of arms. Mr Buta Singh said that they were also briefed to indulge in terrorist activities on return to India. The minsiter expressed the hope that the Government of Pakistan will desist from such action which adversely affects our efforts to develop friendly relations with that country.

He also disclosed that anti-terrorist operations in border areas of Punjab have brought to light some cases in which terrorists had a mix-up with drugs trafficking. The minister of state, P. Chidambaram, told the House that the government is considering the setting up of special courts to try such offences. He said the drive against narcotic offences, which is continued, seems to have yielded results.

Home Minister on Curbing Riots

BK241625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has warned that political, religious, and communal elements found guilty of engineering communal violence would be treated and punished as criminals. He said nobody would be allowed to get away with carnage on humanity. The minister was replying to the 3-day discussion on the communal situation in various parts of the country in the Lok Sabha today initiated by Mr Madhu Dandavate.

He said in future if a communal incident takes place, not only bad characters and those working against national integrity but all those behind them would also be holed up. Mr Buta Singh declared that the government will not allow religious fundamentalists to destroy the unity and integrity ofthe country. The government is determined to curb such organizations which are inculcating fanaticism in the midst of children at regular rallies where they are given lathis [batons] and told that they belong to a community of nationalists.

The home minister suggested that besides district authorities, elected representatives of people should also be made responsible to ensure that communal incidents do not take place in their constituencies. If the district authorities fail to preserve communal peace, an entry would be made in the confidential reports of the concerned officiers and that would be a permanent stigma in their career. Besides, any officer found covertly or overtly involved in the disturbances would certainly be punished severely.

Referring to the demand for a ban on religious processions, he said this will not be a practical proposition. However, there is need to regulate such processions. As for revision of textbooks, particularly those on history, he said the Education Ministry has completed the work in most of the states.

About the code of conduct for the press, it was suggested that it should be voluntary and uniform. Similarly, the minister said, there is a need for a code of conduct for political parties and this could be hammered out if all parties cooperated.

About the representation of minorities in central force, Mr Buta Singh pointed out that it is being done. Six peace-keeping battalions of the Central Reserve Police Force have been raised and it has been ensured that minorities are properly represented in them besides the scheduled castes and tribes. He said the state governments have been asked to resort to special courts if the ordinary courts are not able to measure up to occasion. The high court judge should be from an outside locality and not belonging to any of the communities involved.

AFP: 91 Pakistani Infiltrators Killed April-June

BK241605 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] New Delhi, July 24 (AFP) — Indian border security forces shot and killed 91 Pakistani infiltrators and arrested 21 between April and June this year, Parliament was told on Thursday. Internal Security Minister Arun Kumar Nehru told the Upper House that 20 of the Pakistanis held were suspected to be smugglers, and one a spy.

More than 4,400 Pakistani infiltrators were held on the Indo-Pakistan border in the troubled northern state of Punjab in the first four months of the year, Mr. Nehru said. Of these, [number indistinct] were handed over to the Punjab police for questioning and the rest sent back to Pakistan, he said.

Indian troops also caught more than 7,000 Bangladeshis illegally crossing India's eastern border in the first four months of the year, the minister added.

13 Killed in Punjab; Curfew Imposed in Mukhtsar

BK250755 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Thirteen passengers of a Delhi-bound bus were shot dead by the terrorists in Mukhtsar in Punjab early this morning. The terrorists, who were traveling in the same bus, stopped it near a railway crossing some 10 km from Mukhtsar, pulled out the victims, and shot them from close range. Reports reaching Chandigarh say seven of the passengers were injured, some of them seriously. The bus, which started from Mukhtsar, was later hijacked by the terrorists. Indefinite curfew has been clamped in Mukhtsar after the killing. A massive manhunt has been launched for the terrorists.

In Chandigarh, the Punjab cabinet, which went into an emergency session, described the killings as an outrage against humanity. It called upon the people of the state to unite against

antisocial elements and their sympathisizers who were working in conjunction with a hostile foreign power to disturb the peace and wreck the unity and integrity of the nation. It appealed to the people to remain calm in the face of grave provocation and not to walk into the trap laid by these elements, who want to throw the state into a fratricidal bloodshed.

The governor, Mr Siddhartha Shankar Ray, and the chief minister, Mr Barnala, have canceled their engagements and rushed to Mukhtsar. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has gone to the site of the incident for an on-the-spot study. This information was given in the Lok Sabha by the speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, when Mr Madhu Dandavate, Janata, raised the matter. Mr Jakhar described the incident as condemnable and said the home minister is likely to make a statement in the house on it this afternoon.

Later, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, told the house that the Punjab situation will be taken up for discussion on Monday [28 July].

Curfew, Shoot-on-Sight Orders in Karnataka State

BK250322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] In Karnataka, a curfew was imposed last night in the silk town of Romanagaram and police have issued orders to shoot at sight any person indulging in violence. This followed a fresh outbreak of violence in the town. Two persons were killed when a mob set fire to huts at Udasanhalli village 3 km from Ramnagaram last night. The deputy inspector general of police told our Bangalore correspondent that additional police contingents have been rushed to the spot.

Meanwhile, the state cooperation minister, Mr Jalappa, visited the spot. A team of Congress-I leaders led by the KPCP-I [Karnataka Pradesh Congress Party-Indira] president and MP, Mr R.K. Fernandez, also visited the site. The chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, has appealed to the people to maintain harmony.

Commentator Assesses Outcome of PRC Border Talks

BK241409 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 24 Jul 86

[PTI's Sunil Roy commentary: "Seventh Round of Indo-China Border Talks — An Appraisal"]

[Text] As was expected, the seventh round of India-China talks on the border issue produced no tangible result. The 3-day talks that ended on Wednesday had begun under the shadow of a fresh Chinese intrusion several kilometers deep inside the Indian territory in Arunachal Pradesh. A few weeks before the seventh round of talks was to open in Beijing, Chinese border personnel in uniform intruded into the Kameng Division of the easternmost Indian state which has a long and open border with Tibet.

As a result of this recent unprovoked Chinese intrusion beyond the McMahon Line, the chances of any real progress at the last round of border talks were considerably reduced. What was most disquieting was that China rejected the India protest when the fact of the intrusion was brought to its notice a few days before the last round of border talks. There were speculations that China preferred to intrude into Indian territory to stall the progress of the talks. While India had maintained that 40 Chinese had crossed the border, now it is known that about 100 of them were identified inside the Indian territory. This disclosure was made by the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr G. Apang, who had flown over the area where the intrusion had taken place in a helicopter. Apparently, this was not without the knowledge of the Chinese. The Chinese leaders were fully aware that the intrusion would not be taken lightly in India.

Soon after the arrival of the Indian delegation led by the foreign secretary, Mr A. P. Venkateswaran, in Beijing, the Chinese foreign minister, Mr Wu Xueqian, acknowledged that the atmosphere for the new round of talks was not as good as it was before. The atmosphere was not what China had hoped for, Mr Wu said. He, however, did not tell the Indian delegation as to why China preferred to cross the McMahon Line constituting the international boundary in the eastern sector.

At the last round of talks, not only was the issue of the recent intrusion into Arunchal Pradesh not solved, but there was not much progress on the boundary question either. Mr Venkateswaran had assured the Chinese leaders of India's desire to have friendship with China and the need to maintain peace so that the world's two most populous nations could realize the full potential of their relations. He reiterated that India and China would find a reasonable and fair solution to the boundary issue through negotiations. The officials of both the countries had a brief review of the Jammu and Kashmir sector where the Chinese are in an illegal occupation of the 38,000 square km of Indian territory. China has further complicated the issue by constructing a metalled road linking Pakistan.

Even in the midst of heavy preoccupation with the border issue, negotiators had some time left to discuss cultural exchange and cooperation in the area of science and technology. The Chinese have proposed studies in India's electronics, animal husbandry, jute processing, and tropical diseases, besides textile industry, man-made fibers, and transport policies. India has also proposed to hold exhibitions of traditional musical instruments and contemporary art and cultural troupes in China.

Despite the modest gains in the fields of science and technology and culture, the intractable issue of border settlement remains most crucial in the relations of both the countries. It is evident that the Chinese are trying to twist India's arms in the eastern sector in the fond hope of extracting substantial concessions in the west. The latest intrusion into the Indian territory was one among half a dozen taking place every year. It is reasonably apprehended that the latest incident will not be the last. It was speculated that the border problem could be solved at the political level. But with the present attitude of the Chinese and with the increasing irritants such a prospect can be easily considered remote. In India, public opinion influences the government's decision to a greater extent. But with China, the same does not apply. The last round of talks does not indicate any easy solution to the border issue. Both countries will have to live with it for years to come.

Prime Minister Returns from U.S., European Visits

BK250634 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Excerpt] When Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo arrived at Islamabad airport this morning after his visits to Turkey, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States and France, he was accorded an extremely dignified welcome.

He was greeted by Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, National Assembly Speaker Hamid Nasir Chatha, Punjab Governor Makhdum Sajjad Hussain Qureshi and the chiefs of the Armed Forces. The president and the prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir were also present at the airport to welcome Prime Minister Junejo. [passage omitted on details of welcoming ceremony]

Parliamentary Study Group Departs for Jakarta 24 July

BK240623 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] A 6-member parliamentary delegation left Karachi for Jakarta early this morning on a 15-day study tour of Indonesia and Singapore. The delegation is led by Senator Khalid Amir Abdullah Khan Ropadi.

Karachi Details Recent Mujahidin Activities

BK250352 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] The new leader of Afghanistan, Najibullah, who came to power with the help of the Soviet Union, paid a brief visit to the northern border of Herat Province yesterday.

Najibullah visited the border for 6 hours after reports that the brutal bombing of Herat had led to an exodus of large numbers of people from Herat to neighboring Iran.

Another report says fierce fighting is going on at various places in Lowgar Province.

According to yet another report, at least 100 Soviet Kabul forces were either killed or wounded in clashes with mujahidin in Herat Province during the last 2 weeks.

The report says that mujahidin seized large amounts of arms and ammunition in these clashes.

Meanwhile, a group of 200 Afghan children has been sent to the Soviet Union. Thus the number of children sent to Soviet Union since 1980 has gone up to 6,500. The aim of this program is to turn the children into supporters of the Soviet Union.

SRI LANKA

Reportage on Visit of Bangladesh President

Arrives for SARC Talks

BK241111 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad arrived today for talks with President J.R. Jayewardene aimed at promoting ties among the member-states of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation [SARC]. Mr Ershad was given a 21-gun salute and a guard of honor by the Sri Lankan Navy at a ceremonial reception outside the president's official residence. He will hold talks with Mr Jayewardene this evening centered on SARC, which means Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

The Bangladesh president and his party will fly tomorrow by helicopter to Kandy in the central zone where they will visit a Buddhist temple and plant a commemorative tree at botanical garden.

Mr Ershad, who arrived from the Maldives, is due to leave Colombo for Pakistan on Saturday [26 July].

Jayewardene, Ershad Banquet Speeches

BK250356 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan president has expressed the hope that peace and normalcy will return to his country soon. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Bangladesh president, Lieutenant General Ershad, Mr Jayewardene said that most of the friendly neighboring countries are assisting to find a political solution to the ethnic issue in the island. General Ershad expressed the hope that the people of the island will be able to resolve their differences through their earnest efforts. Both the leaders pledged to strengthen and promote the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Further Reportage on Tamil Peace Talks

TULF Leader Interviewed

BK241435 Hong Kong AFP in English 1250 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Colombo, July 24 (AFP) — The main Tamil political party wrapped up ten days of talks with the Sri Lankan Government here Thursday with a meeting with the main opposition Sri Lankan Freedom Party (SLFP), Tamil sources said.

Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) General Secretary Appapillai Amirthalingam told *Agence France-Presse* in an interview shortly before leaving Colombo that his delegation "will not say we are satisfied with the talks, but we feel we can go on."

A joint communique issued by the Sri Lankan Government Thursday said the TULF delegation would return to Colombo in mid-August to continue discussions with the government on finding a peaceful solution to the ethnic conflict.

Before leaving for Madras, southern India, late Thursday the TULF delegation held a one-hour meeting with the SLFP, Tamil sources said.

TULF leaders held a series of meetings beginning July 13 with President Junius Jayewardene to discuss proposals for granting Tamils limited autonomy. Militant members of Sri Lanka's 2.5-million Tamil minority have been waging an often-bloody campaign for a separate state on the north and east of the island.

Mr. Amirthalingam said his party's reaction to the talks was "more positive" than for discussions held in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan in August. "I can also say that the reaction from the government side was also more positive," he added. Mr. Amirthalingam said that the TULF Political Bureau will meet in Madras soon to review the talks.

TULF will also brief the extremist Tamil groups and Indian officials on the talks and on issues that will be coming up later during the discussions, he said. The TULF leader said his party expected to go to New Delhi for further talks with Indian officials who have been actively involved in helping to formulate the autonomy proposals now being discussed.

Asked to sum up the discussions in Colombo Mr. Amirthalingam said "they were useful." "The two sides have prepared building blocks but neither the plans nor the foundation for the building has been finalised," he added.

The joint communique issued by the Sri Lankan government said the talks with the TULF delegation were frank and detailed. It also said the discussions were useful although no final decisions were reached on several matters.

Political Parties Endorse Proposals

BK241215 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] The political parties conference endorsed the reports of the five committees appointed to study aspects of the proposals to end the ethnic conflict yesterday. The conference at its plenary session presided over by President Jayewardene recommended that the proposals be implemented by his government once discussions with the TULF and other representatives of the Tamil people were concluded.

The resolution to endorse the proposals was moved by the leader of the UNP delegation, Dr M.C.M. Kaleel and seconded by the LSSP [Lanka Sama Samaja Party] leader, Dr Colvin R. De Silva.

The conference has appealed to all Eelamist organizations to put forward their proposals to find a political soltuion to the ethnic crisis within the framework of an undivided Sri Lanka. The conference called for the formulation of definite proposals regarding finances that will ensure the viability of the provincial

council system. It also requested the president to summon a plenary to consider further developments in the light of these resolutions.

The All Ceylon Tamil Congress and the DWC [Democratic Workers Congress] recorded their reservations on the resolutions. The leader of the Tamil Congress, Kumar Ponnambalam, said that APC [All Party Conference] cannot achieve its objectives without negotiating with the Tamil militant groups. The LSSP leader, Dr Colvin R. de Silva, appealed to the government to take all possible measures to implement a cease-fire or cessation of hostilities through negotiations. The leader of the SLMP [Sri Lanka Mahajana Party], Vijaya Kumaratunge, said that his party was willing to assist the government in arranging a cease-fire with the Tamil militant groups. The political parties conference will resume its deliberations at a later date.

Tamil 'Tigers' Blamed for 24 Jul Bus Bombing

BK250454 Hong Kong AFP in English 0422 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Colombo, July 25 (AFP) — Tamil separatists opposed to current peace talks with the government were responsible for a parcel bomb attack on a bus in northern Sri Lanka, government sources said Friday.

Officials of the Joint Operation Command (JOC), the anti-guerrilla military headquarters here Friday reduced the toll in Thursday's blast to 12 dead and 28 injured. A government statement Thursday had said that 31 people were killed and 33 injured when a parcel bomb exploded aboard a government-owned bus travelling south from Vavuniya in the north to Anuradhapura. Military sources said that the initial miscount was because of the large number of mutilated bodies found at the scene which made even the identification of sex very difficult. The bus was virtually reduced to scrap, the sources said.

Government sources said Friday that they believed the bomb had been planted by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the main Tamil militant separatist group. The LTTE have also been blamed for detonating a landmine Tuesday under a bus in the north, killing 31 people and wounding about 25.

The attack were believed to be in reaction to current peace talks between Tamil representatives and the government to solve the country's ethnic crisis by giving greater autonomy to Tamil regions, government sources said. A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamil minority have been waging a bloody campaign for greater autonomy in the north and east, complaining of discrimination by the Sinhala majority.

Finance Minister Interviewed on Economic Problems

PM231945 Paris LE MONDE in French 28 Jun 86 p 4

[Interview with Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel by Paul Fabra and Francoise Crouigneau in Paris — date not given]

[Excerpts] It is unusual to hear a finance minister, whether he is from a Third World country or not, frankly admit: "The sudden upsurge in inflation is entirely due to the recent increase in public spending." And, when we asked him to explain this in greater detail, Ronnie de Mel, who has been Sri Lanka's finance minister for 9 years, modified his statement: "Or rather it is due to the method by which it has been financed: the monetization of part of the public debt by the issuing institute."

This is unusual for two reasons. The first is that such frankness is not customary among politicians; the second is that very few finance ministers in the world are capable of establishing the relationship between cause and effect so clearly. It is true that Mr de Mel, who is still a young man, has achieved remarkable results. In 1980 prices in sri lanka increased by 35 percent; in 1984 the increase was still 16 3 percent; and in 1985 inflation had virtually disappeared with an increase of just 1.3 percent. "In fact we reduced inflation to zero percent," he minister said. "But it has increased again since then to around 6 percent and we hope to limit it to 9 percent over 1986 as a whole." This is additional proof, if such proof were needed, that inflation is a domestic phenomenon.

However, like other countries, Sri Lanka is "benefiting" from the drop in the price of oil and in other products it must import in large quantities. But some figures given by the minister may give a better idea of the tensions and the risks run: "The interest rate for depositors was 16 percent last year; it has been reduced to 12 percent" (despite the increase in inflation). [passage omitted]

"The tragedy is the increase in military spending," Mr de Mel told us, "which has now reached 10 billion rupees, three times more than 2 years ago. In 1977 the defense budget only accounted for 1 to 2 percent of the budget. The proportion has increased to 15 percent this year. Less than 2 years ago, the total number of men under arms in the police and the Armed Forces was not more than 15,000. This figure has increased to 25,000."

By comparison, spending on the famous but fairly ineffective food aid program seems small: It costs around 2.5 billion rupees, or the equivalent of a little less than $100 million. The criticisms leveled at this program are justified, Mr de Mel explained: "Half of the population benefits from it, in other words around 7.5 million people. We would like to reduce this figure to 5 million, the aim being to simultaneously increase the allocations and reserve the program for those who are really in need." Thanks to the distribution of special allocations, the beneficiaries can buy rice, lentils, dried fish, and oil, in other words the basic necessities.

From 1978 to 1985 the countries experienced an average growth rate of 5.8 percent. Before the uprising the rate was 6 percent. "We have succeeded in keeping it at 5 percent despite the troubles," Mr de Mel explained, "and we think we can achieve the same percentage in 1986. For the 1986-90 period, we are planning an average increase of 4.4 percent. Unfortunately, this will not be enough to provide work for the whole population." The proportion of people unemployed has fallen for several years. According to the official figures it has been reduced from 35 percent to around 13 percent.

What is the aim of the government's action? In the economic and financial sphere Mr de Mel explained: "While we are continuing our effort at liberalization, especially by easing price controls,

which has already been greatly reduced, we intend to tackle bureaucracy and the proliferation of various ministerial agencies. At the same time we are continuing efforts to rationalize customs duties."

In the short term the main aims is, of course, the reduction of the budget deficit, demanded by the international financial bodies. Moreover, Mr de Mel has no illusions. Although he plans to reduce the budget deficit from 14 percent to 8 percent in 1986, he immediately explained: "Everything will depend on military spending." [passage omitted]

Mr de Mel had come to Paris to negotiate funds amounting to some $700 million granted to the consortium for aid to Sri Lanka, organized under the World Bank's auspices. It is long-term aid (between 30 and 50 years) and carries a very low interest rate (between 1 and 4 percent). The main donor countries are, in order, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, and the United States, whose contribution has been reduced this year (although it is accompanied by a particularly low interest rate). "The importance which Washington attaches to Sri Lanka in its strategy unfortunately bears no comparison to the importance the Americans attach to Israel and Egypt."

"The 30-percent drop in tea prices last year and the reduction in the number of tourists, from 450,000 to 300,000 — but we have never been Italy — explain the increase in our foreign deficit," the finance minister argued, before adding: "We are trying to diversify exports, particularly by encouraging foreign investment by the creation of free zones or by other means. Before the troubles some 450 investments programs were planned; this number has dropped, but we are still receiving around 10 proposals every month."

Khomeyni Receives Hajj Supervisors, Martyrs' Families

LD241422 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Karrubi, the imam's representative and supervisor of Iranian Hajj pilgrims, accompanied by Emam-Jamarani, the imam's representative in the Hajj, Awqaf and Charity Affairs Organization and Reza'i, the supervisor of the Hajj organization, as well as several members of the Council of Estefta [council answering public queries on religious matters] were this morning received by Imam Khomeyni. Also this morning, the relatives of martyrs, POW's and those missing from the cities of Qom, Karaj and Beza-ye Fars, as well as some of the relatives of martyrs from the cities of Tehran and Mahallat, met the imam of the ummah at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran.

At this meeting, which was also attended by the members of the planning headquarters dealing with educational affairs of the children of martyrs and composed of officials in charge of the institutions and ministries which are required to cooperate in this matter under an order issued by the imam of the ummah, Minister of Education and Training Akrami was also present.

Karrubi, the deputy speaker of the Majlis, the imam's representative and supervisor of the Martyrs Foundation, first made a speech about the victories of the combatants and about the politico-religious Hajj ceremonies. He referred to the visit of the prime minister of the Zionist, usurping Al-Quds regime to Morocco. He said: Although such visits are a tragedy for Islam and the Islamic community, yet they expose the ugly face of mercenaries such Shah Hassan II and reveal their treacheries to Islamic nations.

During the meeting Karrubi also paid tribute to the selflessness and sacrifices of the relatives of martyrs and conveyed the imam's congratulations and condolences to them. At the end of the meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the favorable sentiments expressed by the audience.

Velayati Cables De Cuellar on Attacks on Civilians

LD251047 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — In a message to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Thursday, Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati urged the international body to take urgent action to stop the Baghdad regime's inhuman attacks upon civilians in the Islamic Republic.

Pointing to the Iraqi regime's repeated violations of the U.N.-sponsored June 12, 1984 agreement to discontinue military attacks on civilians, Velayati cautioned that the Islamic Republic would no longer tolerate unilaterally, the human losses inflicted by the Baghdad rulers.

In his letter, the Iranian foreign minister said that the Iraqi regime has once again intensified its military attacks upon civilian areas in Iran in the recent weeks. As latest examples he referred to Iraqi military attacks on Iranian cities of Bostan, Piranshahr, Abadan, and Marivan, as well as the village of Sharifabad in southeast Tehran, which have taken place since June 10, 1986.

He also reminded the U.N. chief of Thursday morning's attack of Iraqi warplanes upon the Kurdish city of Sanandaj in Kordestan Province which he said had so far martyred and injured 60 civilians.

Reporters Invited to Sanandaj

LD241901 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters (WIH) invited foreign reporters residing in Tehran to visit and inspect the destruction caused by the Iraqi bombardment of the western city of Sanandaj, Thursday.

The WIH also invited the U.N. expert delegation in Iran to visit the area and file report on the raid which claimed lives of 23 civilians and wounded score of others.

The announcement said that Iraqi warplanes targeted a slum area in heavily populated center of Sanandaj, massacring a number of Muslim Kurds.

Further Reaction to Peres, Hassan Talks in Morocco

Foreign Minister Condemns Visit

LD241516 Tehran IRNA in English 1502 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati condemned the visit of the Zionist regime's Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to Morocco and stressed that Muslim Moroccan people will not allow their treacherous ruler to continue such treasons, here Thursday.

Velayati, speaking to a group of ambassadors and charges d'affaires of Muslim countries to Iran, said that this event has placed a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of all Islamic nations and leaders in the region.

"This heavy and historical responsibility necessitates giving an appropriate and decisive response to such acts and to such dependent and subservient agents as King Hassan and those presumptous superpowers and usurping Zionists who should be made to realize that no treachery to the Islamic ideal will be left unanswered." [quotation marks as received]

In the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Velayati said, if this treacherous act is not responded to with a measure similar to the one taken against the regime ruling over Egypt in 1978, future perfidies should be anticipated by dependent mercenaries.

Praising the decisive step taken by Syria in severing diplomatic relations with the Moroccan regime, the Iranian foreign minister called on other Islamic and Arab countries to take similar measure. He also called on the Islamic Conference Organization "to remove King Hassan from the chairmanship of Al-Quds committee because of such a criminal act against the aspiration of Al-Quds."

Velayati urged the organization to consider a collective orchestrated and decisive measure against the Moroccan ruler to halt continuation of such treacherous trend against Muslim nations.

Islamic Guidance Minister's Statement

LD250606 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — Minister of Ershad Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami Thursday called on the information ministers of Islamic countries to condemn the treacherous move of the Moroccan regime in accepting the trip of the Zionist regime's Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to that country.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami said in his message that hosting the Zionist prime minister was a great insult to Muslims of the world especially the Moroccan people. He also expressed regret over the silence of many rulers of Muslim countries vis-a-vis this move.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami urged his counterparts to encourage their people to take part in the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist demonstrations of world Muslims during the Hajj rituals.

Elsewhere in his message the Ershad minister reiterated that the liberation of occupied Palestine would be possible only through armed struggle as well as the mobilization of world Muslims.

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD251223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] The religious-political Friday prayers ceremonies were held throughout the country today. Citizens of Tehran attended Tehran University and the surrounding streets to observe Friday prayers under the imamate of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili today.

In his prayers sermons Tehran's acting Friday imam began by referring to the trip to Morocco by the prime minister of the regime occupying Jerusalem and his meeting with King Hassan. He condemned that meeting and said: This trip, apart from being tantamount to treason to Muslim aims which see Jerusalem as one of their prime goals, has also brought about some disgrace.

In reply to the Moroccan king -- who said: I have invited the prime minister of Israel in order to find out what he has to say -- the ayatollah said: There are very few people in the world or the Islamic countries who do not know what Israel has to say! The president of the State Supreme Court added: The world knows that the Palestine fiasco has only one cause, that is the existence of these very King Hassans, King Husayns, and such mercenaries. And as long as the manly youths and zealous people of the Arab countries have not dispatched these filthy germs to join Al-Sadat, the Palestine problem will not be solved. [as heard]

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili added: Instead of these traitors I wish there were a handful of young people like the Hizballah of Lebanon dominating Islamic and Arab countries, for if that had been the case, Israel would have been destroyed long ago! However, it is these traitors who are unfortunately ruling the roost in the Islamic countries.

Continuing his speech, the president of the State Supreme Court censured the reaction of certain rulers of the Arab countires to this disgraceful meeting and emphasized: If these tiny satans had faith in the anti-Israeli struggle and if they had not created difficulties for the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic would by now have solved the problem of Palestine. However, by provoking Saddam, they planned to bar our path to keep us engaged in our own problems; and, recently, by dumping free oil at the feet of the common enemy, they are planning to bring economic pressure to bear on Iran.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili added: Our military culture is an Islamic one and when one man follows an Islamic culture, like the prophet, he shall not be brought to his knees. And if they imagine that we could be defeated by having no oil, then their imagining is false, because for us the existence or nonexistence of oil is not a determining factor.

The president of the State Supreme Court then referred to the bombing by the Iraqi regime of our country's populated regions and the martyrdom of a number of the innocent people of Sanandaj. He gave a warning to international organizations and circles and said: If Saddam imagines that such crimes could inflict the least harm on the will of our combatants, he should know that such actions can only further infuriate Islam's troops on the warfronts and will make them even more steadfast in their path. Let the international organizations also know that the patience and forbearance of the Islamic Republic of Iran has limits and that they should put an end to the wicked deeds of the Iraqi Zionist regime before retaliation in kind is made!

Prime Minister Addresses IRGC Commanders on Oil Plot

LD241345 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] In connection with the plot aimed at reducing the price of oil in order to bring pressure to bear on the Islamic Republic of Iran in the war, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi declared: The government council has carried out necessary planning to confront this plot so that the war could be ended as soon as possible with a victory for Islam's combatants; and the government has placed its entire capabilities at the disposal of the war.

According to a Central News Unit report, Musavi, speaking at a meeting of military commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], also emphasized: In addition to strengthening the agricultural sector and securing basic commodities and satisfying the people's needs, the country's fundamental projects will also be continued. The government is also strongly supporting domestic production so that, through smashing this latest plot of world arrogance, the war will also end with a rapid victory.

In connection with government plans aimed as securing government revenues the prime minister added: According to plans, government revenues should not rely on oil and in the future we should rely only on ourselves and not on others.

Referring to the fact that the arrogant powers, particularly the United States, fully understand our economic structure and know wherein lie our points of weakness and strength, Prime Minister Musavi said: The pressure which we feel from the fall in oil prices in effect constitutes their hope in breaking us economically, thinking that we will change our political slogans and high aspirations and show some flexibility toward the United States. We know that parallel with the plot whereby Saudi Arabia has entered this game in order to bring pressure to bear on Iran, the green light has been given by the United States and Europe to establish close relations with us. Together with their propaganda they imagine that with the reduction in the price of oil our country will be driven to showing some flexibility in order to continue its work; and this is their analysis as they have never understood the nature of our revolution!

The prime minister added: When we return to an analysis of the latest plot once again, we come across such a method of thinking by the architects of this plot; and the person who is sitting in Saudi Arabia thinking that by plundering the capital of the Muslim people he has defeated the Islamic revolution is making a serious blunder and through such actions has placed himself at the mercy of being judged by his nation as to the reason why he was selling oil worth $28 a barrel for $10 or less; and the aim behind this action is securing his goals.

The prime minister further said: The aspirations of the Islamic Revolution are not for barter or compromise. We have no other path except victory and we must be victorious and in order to defeat this plot, we are continuing our struggle on a world level.

Continuing his speech the prime minister emphasized: Now that we have cleansed Mehran of the odium of the aggressors, thanks to the tremendous power and blessings of God Almighty and because the enemy is confused today, we should not allow him to reorganize himself and we should continue to resist while being confident that victory belongs to us.

Political-Economic Delegation Returns From PRC

LD251041 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — An Iranian political-economic delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister for Executive Affairs Hamad Mirzadeh returned here from China Friday and was welcomed by the Chinese ambassador to Iran, Wang Benzuo and a number of Iranian officials from the Prime Ministry.

The delegation participated in the second meeting of the Joint Commission of Bilateral Economic and Commercial Cooperation between the two countries held in Beijing.

Speaking to reporters upon his return, Mirzadeh described the results of the trip as "very successful".

According to a letter of understanding signed in Beijing, the volume of mutual trade exchange is predicted to increase up to $400 million. Agreement was also reached on an additional $200 million for implementation of joint development and industrial projects, Mirzadeh said.

Mirzadeh said that numerous joint technical and commercial projects were also agreed upon. He said experts from the two countries would carry out necessary studies within three months in this connection. It was also decided that the Chinese party buy 1.5 million tons of oil from Iran beside the non-oil purchases, he said. Iran's non-oil exports to China include nuts, dates, pistachio, machinery, buses, mineral concentrates, as well as other industrial products. Mirzadeh also said that he had important meetings with Chinese leaders and submitted a message of President 'Ali Khamene'i for the Chinese president on expansion of mutual friendly relations between the two countries.

Paper Cited on Religious Oppression in Saudi Arabia

LD240848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] The Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners of the Arab Peninsula declared in a statement: While the world's Muslims are preparing themselves for the performance of their Hajj ceremonies and call for the establishment of divine justice in the world, the Saudi Government has placed under arrest a large number of the Muslim and oppressed inhabitants of the Arab Peninsula on the grounds of religious activities, and is subjecting them to the severest medieval forms of torture.

In another part of this statement which was published in the *Al-Mustaqbal* publication, it is written that among those recently arrested are several clergymen and seminary students and a large groups of engineers, workers, students and [words indistinct], some of whom have been transferred to mental hospitals as a result of savage tortures and loss of memory. This statement also says that at present, in the eastern regions of Arabia, a state of emergency has been declared, and in various places inspection posts have been established Up to now, a large number of people have been arrested by the security agents of the government.

Combat, Karbala' Troops Leave for Battlefronts

LD250954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Excerpt] Two battalions of combat-specialist forces from Khorasan Province left Mashhad yesterday for the battlefronts of good against evil in order to join the Islamic combatants. Similarly, the 6th Karbala' convoy left Western Azarbayjan Province for the fronts yesterday. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

IRGC Shell Umm Qasr

LD241235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the warriors of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] ground forces last night and this morning carried out a series of successful operations with execution of fire [as heard] and were able to bring the economic and port installations of Iraq's Umm Qasr under their

long-range fire and to inflict heavy losses on the enemy. The smoke resulting from setting Umm Qasr's installations on fire can still be seen in the operational theater.

Further on Umm Qasr Shelling

LD241907 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] In retaliation for the bombing of the residential areas of several of our country's cities by the aggressor aircraft of the Armed Forces of Iraq, the power station and other industrial and economic installations of Al-Harithah in Iraq, situated to the north of Al-Basrah, have been subjected to ongoing heavy artillery fire by the combatants of Islam since yesterday.

The combatants of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps ground forces last night and this morning, in a series of successful operations in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational sector, also targeted their long-range fire on the economic and seaport installations at Umm Qasr, Iraq, and inflicted some heavy damage on the Zionist enemy. The smoke rising from the blazing economic installations of Umm Qasr can still be seen in the operational sector.

Communique No 2,542

LD241927 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — An Iraqi power plant and other industrial installations of Al-Harithah, north of the southern port city of Al-Basrah sustained substantial damage when they were subjected to heavy artillery fire of the Islamic combatants at 00:30 hours local time Wednesday (21:00 G.M.T. Tuesday).

Announcing the above Thursday, the 2,542d Joint Staff Command communique added that Iraqi war planes bombarded two civilian areas of Sanandaj, the capital of the western Iranian Province of Kordestan, at 11:30 hours local time (08:00 G.M.T.) Thursday. The bombardment, said the communique, resulted in the martyrdom of 20 civilians and wounding of several others as well as destruction of over 70 houses and shops and damaging of 55 private cars. Meanwhile, latest reports reaching here said that three of the injured have died in hospital raising the number of martyred to 23.

In battle operations throughout the war fronts during Wednesday and Thursday, the communique said that an Iraqi patrol unit attempted to penetrate Iranian positions in the Chazzabeh operational region of the western fronts but was immediately forced back by the latter's fire.

Iraqi artillery and armoured units in the operation areas west of Jofeyr and Eynkhosh sustained some losses as they came under Iranian artillery barrages which silenced the enemy fire.

Iraqi forces in the southern theatre were subjected to heavy weapons fire of the Islamic defenders which destroyed two vehicles and several bunkers in addition to inflicting more casualties on the enemy, said the joint staff communique.

Further up, in the same theatre, Iran's Gendarmerie forces halted enemy fire and activities killing several Iraqi soldiers and destroying a command jeep, a munitions dump and some armament emplacements.

In the Mehran theatre and other central sectors of the battlefronts, all enemy operations were checked by Iranian artillery fire, while some Iraqi troops were killed and one ammunition depot and two bunkers were demolished.

Artillery duels raged heavier in the Mehran and Sumar theatres, while more Iraqis were killed or wounded in the Hajj 'Umran and Sardasht fronts of the northwestern sector where two enemy fuel tanks and several vehicles were smashed, added the communique.

Afghan Rebels Attack 'Communists' in Zabol Province

LD202231 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 20 Jul 86

[Text] The Muslim Afghan revolutionaries last Monday during an operation attacked a big military convoy of the occupying communists who were moving from Kabul to Zabol Province in southeast of Afghanistan killing 120 of them.

According to the Central News Bureau, the Muslim revolutionaries during these operations also managed to destroy two choppers, 14 tanks, and armored vehicles of the communist forces.

On the other hand, the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries over the past 3 weeks, by carrying out a series of sporadic operations in different parts of Parwan Province east of Afghanistan against the positions of the communists and the forces of the regime ruling over Afghanistan killing many, captured 15 communists occupiers and a large quantity of weaponry and ammunition as booty.

During these operations, 10 tanks, and vehicles of the communists were destroyed by the fire of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries.